



**Name of Wine:** Baga Vinho Espumante Bruto

**Producer:** Luis Pato

**Region:** Bairrada, Portugal

**Vintage:** 2008

**Grape Varieties:** 100% Baga (One of the highest yielding Portuguese grape varieties, spread throughout the country but most concentrated in Bairrada and Dão. The grapes come into their own when well ripe, showing wines of deep color and great structure, with powerful tannins and everything in place to evolve

well in the bottle.)

### **Grape Source:**

**Vineyards:** Estate owned vineyards located in Bairrada. **Soil:** Chalky clay.

### **Vinification:**

**Harvest:** Hand harvested during the end of August

**Maceration/Fermentation:** The grapes are lightly crushed via vacuum press to obtain a juice yield that doesn't exceed 60%. It is followed by fermentation in stainless steel vats. The second fermentation occurs inside the bottle (Method Champenoise), the wine matures 6-9 months on the lees before disgorgement.

### **Other:**

**Alcohol Volume:** 12%

**Ratings:** 100 Points Vinos Unico Staff

### **Tasting Notes:**

Although officially a sparkling red wine, not a rosado, the Espumante is a pale coral red, darker than most Champagne Rose but lighter than Lambrusco and practically albino when compared against inky Sparkling Shiraz. The pale color is because the sparkling Baga is made from fruit from Luis Pato's Quinta do Ribeirinho and Vinhas Velhas vineyards that is harvested early, about six weeks before the harvest for the still wine. The somewhat under-ripe grapes have higher acidity and lower sugar and tannin content, ideal for making brisk, refreshing sparkling wine. Great with tapas, seafood and roast pig!

### **History:**

This is one of the first Estate's in Bairrada to start bottling their wines in the 1970s. The owner Luis Pato is the winemaker and an intelligent, press-friendly ex-chemist. Ironically, although he's the one person who has probably done the most for the international visibility and reputation of the Bairrada region, Pato only bottles a few of his wines under the Bairrada appellation. Instead, he uses the wider generic VR Beiras label, as a protest against what he considers to be an over-legislative attitude of the regulating authorities.

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